GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:217
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2005
FELLING SMUGGLING OF BHOJ TREES
Jogi Shri Ajit

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Birch (Bhoj Tre

(e) is on the verge of extinction due to its indiscriminate felling and smuggling;

(b) if so, whether the Government is formulating any action plan for the protection of this tree; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a)No, Sir.

(b)&(c) Following measures have been taken for the protection and conservation of forests including those of Bhoj trees:

(i) Legal measures like Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and Environment Protection Act, 1986 and the rules, guidelines thereof.

(ii) Management measures like working of forests according to approved Working Plans, Forest Development Agencies and Joint Forest Management.

(iii) Financial measures like providing assistance to the States/Union Territories under centrally sponsored schemes and externally aided projects. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme called 'Integrated Forest Protection Scheme', in operation since 2002-03, funds are provided to states and Union territories primarily for strengthening of Infrastructure for protection of forests from illicit fellings, fires, encroachments etc.

(iv) A network of protected areas has been established.